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Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism

Technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made in 2017 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in supporting Member States in the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, as well as the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. The report also highlights key achievements of the Office in delivering technical assistance on the legal and criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism while responding to emerging challenges and evolving needs of Member States. The report concludes with a set of recommendations, including on the need for enhanced support to meet those challenges, for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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I. Introduction

1. The mandate, technical expertise, field-level operational capacity and professional networks relating to various types of crime of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) place it in a unique position to address the increasingly complex and multidimensional nature of terrorism in a coherent and comprehensive manner.

2. The present report covers major activities undertaken by UNODC, including through its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in 2017. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted Member States and regional organizations in their efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in line with the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Office's support was focused in particular on helping Member States accede to, ratify and implement the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism and develop efficient criminal justice responses that meet human rights and rule of law standards.

3. The Office's mandate regarding counter-terrorism technical assistance was reiterated in General Assembly resolution 72/123, on measures to eliminate international terrorism; 72/180, on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; 72/194, on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism; and 72/196, on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity.

4. More specifically, in its resolution 72/194, the General Assembly requested UNODC to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and in reintegrating children formerly associated with armed groups and terrorist groups. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged the Office to assist Member States, in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism in order to promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists.

5. Furthermore, the Security Council adopted several resolutions related to immediate terrorist threats, which are also addressed by UNODC through the provision of specialized technical assistance. Those include resolution 2341 (2017), on terrorist threats against critical infrastructure; resolution 2347 (2017), on the destruction of cultural heritage and the smuggling of cultural property by terrorist groups in situations of armed conflict; resolution 2354 (2017), on countering terrorist narratives; resolution 2368 (2017), reaffirming the sanctions regime against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh); and resolution 2370 (2017), on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons.

6. In addition, the Council adopted resolution 2396 (2017), focused on terrorist fighters returning and relocating to their countries of origin or nationality, or to third countries. The Council recognized the expertise and technical assistance provided by UNODC to Member States to counter this phenomenon, in particular to facilitate international cooperation on judicial matters related to terrorism, and requested UNODC to continue providing technical support to Member States, inter alia, for the development and implementation of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, including in the context of foreign terrorist fighters.

7. UNODC remained one of the key contributors to the implementation of pillar III of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; 50 per cent of the projects under that pillar were being implemented by the Office. The Office also contributed significantly to the implementation of the foreign terrorist fighter capacity-building plan of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

8. UNODC is currently the only United Nations entity with the capacity to deploy field-based experts with technical knowledge and practical experience in the various

elements that comprise acts of terrorism and other related crimes. Throughout 2017, the Office further strengthened its field presence by recruiting terrorism prevention experts based in Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Thailand and Uzbekistan, who provide expertise and deliver assistance related to countering terrorism nationally and regionally.

II. Delivery of technical assistance

9. Since 2003, UNODC has been providing legal and capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States in the ratification, incorporation into legislation and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and in the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

10. Increased donor support in 2017 led to the expansion of geographical coverage of the Office's work on terrorism prevention. In particular, UNODC assisted countries in the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Central, South and South-East Asia, Central America and South-Eastern Europe. The Office also developed and will soon start implementing additional projects for Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria and Tunisia, as well as for South Africa, the Lake Chad region and a number of Asian countries.

A. Technical assistance activities

1. Ratification and legislative assistance

11. In 2017, the Office continued to promote the 19 international legal instruments related to terrorism and contributed to 24 additional ratifications by Member States in receipt of its assistance.

12. Since it entered into force in 2016, an increasing number of States, including Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Madagascar in 2017, have ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

13. Legislative assistance was provided to several Member States, including Benin, Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen.

14. In the case of Yemen, UNODC supported several national agencies in the drafting of counter-terrorism legislation in line with international standards. A national committee in Yemen was established to expedite the finalization of the draft law. The Government of Cameroon also received assistance in amending its national counter-terrorism legislation to meet the requirements of relevant Security Council resolutions. As a result, Cameroon amended, inter alia, the military justice code so as to exclude juveniles from the competence of military courts in terrorism cases. Furthermore, UNODC advised Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the legislative implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).

15. UNODC continued to promote the important role of parliamentarians in preventing terrorism, for example, by organizing visits to Madrid, Paris and Vienna by representatives of the Parliament of Egypt.

16. The Office further strengthened its collaboration with parliamentary associations, including by co-organizing regional and subregional meetings hosted by national parliaments with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). The Executive Director of UNODC addressed the 137th IPU Assembly, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, in October 2017. In addition, UNODC and IPU launched a joint initiative on the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism at a conference for parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa on the challenges posed by extremism leading to

terrorism and preventive criminal justice responses, hosted by the Parliament of Egypt in Aswan, Egypt, from 31 January to 2 February 2017.

17. UNODC was also represented at the eleventh Plenary Session of PAM in Porto, Portugal, in February 2017, and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, in March 2017. In addition, the Office established contacts with the newly created Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), who visited the UNODC Executive Director in November 2017.

2. Capacity-building to implement counter-terrorism legislation

18. The Office provided capacity-building assistance in several specialized counter-terrorism efforts. Among the top priorities in that regard were the criminal justice aspects of addressing the threats posed by the financing of terrorism, returning and relocating terrorist fighters, improvised explosive devices, terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure and the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist recruitment and incitement.

19. National capacity-building assistance was provided to, inter alia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Yemen. In total, the Office assisted 50 Member States and carried out over 140 national and regional activities through which 4,025 criminal justice officials were trained, including 1,040 women.

20. Ongoing initiatives were complemented by several new technical assistance projects. In addition to the existing bilateral technical assistance plans for Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, support for Iraq to restore criminal justice and law enforcement institutions in the territories liberated from ISIL became a top priority. In addition, UNODC further expanded its technical assistance to the Sahel countries, for example, by initiating counter-terrorism capacity-building activities in support of Supreme Courts of the Sahel countries and tailored counter-terrorism action plans for Burkina Faso and Mauritania. UNODC further advanced the implementation of the multi-year partnership between Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for strengthening the capacity of Nigerian criminal justice officials to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases in accordance with the rule of law and human rights. In Asia, the Office initiated a comprehensive set of new projects, including a project in partnership with INTERPOL on improving border management. In Central Asia, UNODC advanced the establishment of a regional network to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

(a) Building the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism-related cases

21. The capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism-related cases in line with human rights standards and rule of law standards, as well as the latest technological developments and methods, is essential for countering terrorism successfully and sustainably.

22. The Office held a total of 36 national training activities on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases for Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, as well as regional events for the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and the Sahel region.

23. UNODC also offered capacity-building assistance in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of specific types of terrorist activities, including through

national workshops for Chad and the Niger on crime-scene management. Some of the workshops focused on the use of special investigation techniques, including a workshop for Lebanon on advanced open-source investigations, data and criminal intelligence analysis techniques.

24. The Office also provided instrumental assistance to requesting Member States on investigating and prosecuting cases concerning foreign terrorist fighters. For example, a cross-regional training session for countries of South and South-East Asia was held in Manila from 7 to 9 November 2017, and national workshops for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo,[1] the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

25. In sub-Saharan Africa, UNODC successfully supported Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria in establishing national specialized counter-terrorism units for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases. Work on a Nigerian counter-terrorism investigations manual progressed well, and included the holding of a peer review meeting in Vienna in November 2017.

(b) Suppressing the financing of terrorism

26. Suppressing the financing of terrorism is a critical priority. As the methods and actors involved in such financing change continuously, national authorities need to be able to draw on the latest knowledge to efficiently counteract it.

27. UNODC worked to further strengthen national capabilities to suppress the financing of terrorism, in line with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, relevant Security Council resolutions and the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations. As the Chair of the Working Group on Countering the Financing of Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, UNODC cooperated closely with relevant entities such as CTED, the International Monetary Fund and the Financial Action Task Force.

28. UNODC activities included those related to capacity-building in the investigation and prosecution of terrorism financing-related cases, and to disrupting terrorist financial networks in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal and Tunisia.

29. Asset freezing, an important tool to counter the financing of terrorism, was the focus of country-level assistance to Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and was the main topic of a regional workshop for countries of South and South-East Asia. Some of the events held in that connection addressed, inter alia, countering the financing of terrorism by preventing the financing of weapons of mass destruction.

30. UNODC continued to apply the proven learning method of carrying out mock investigations into the financing of terrorism, including at four workshops held in Rabat in October 2017 as part of the second phase of the project to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism in Morocco.

31. The Office also supported the efforts of some States to respond to the use of digital currencies by terrorist groups, including by holding a specialized training session on the subject in Cairo from 2 to 4 October 2017, and continued its collaboration with the Inter-Institutional Committee to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and its Financing of Colombia by supporting the organization of six sessions of the Committee in 2017.

32. As a result of its work to fulfil other related mandates, UNODC is well placed to assist Governments in their efforts to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, including through the illicit sale of cultural heritage in the form of movable property. In 2017, the Executive Director of UNODC briefed the Security Council on the Office's work to combat trafficking in cultural property at

[1] All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

two open debates of the Council on the topic "Maintenance of international peace and security: destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict", held on 24 March and 30 November 2017. To address the illicit sale of antiquities by terrorist groups, UNODC worked closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Furthermore, the Office contributed substantively to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2347 (2017) (S/2017/969). Other activities included a workshop for Iraq (Beirut, 21–23 January 2017) and UNODC participation in a European Union high-level meeting on protecting cultural heritage from terrorism and mass atrocities (New York, 21 September 2017).

33. Furthermore, the *World Drug Report 2017*, published by UNODC, contains a chapter dedicated to the theme of analysing the links between drug trafficking and other forms of crime, including terrorism. It expresses concerns about the growing involvement of terrorist groups in illicit drug sales in some regions, and identifies the need for more research and capacity-building in that regard.

34. In addition, UNODC held two expert group meetings related to the financing of terrorism in Vienna in 2017, one in April, which brought together experts to identify good practices in assessing the risks posed by the financing of terrorism, and one in November, on interrupting the financing and acquisition of critical parts for improvised explosive devices.

(c) Addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including returning and relocating fighters

35. The security threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters was further exacerbated in 2017 by the increased number of terrorist fighters returning and/or relocating to their countries of origin or nationality, or to third countries. The number of cases involving such fighters has risen significantly, posing numerous challenges to judicial and law enforcement institutions. UNODC has responded to this phenomenon by addressing the complex and interrelated challenges experienced by national criminal justice systems.

36. To that end, the Office continued its active engagement with Member States under the framework of its initiative on strengthening the legal regime against foreign terrorist fighters in the Middle East and North Africa and South-Eastern Europe. The initiative is aimed at helping States implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) and promoting international cooperation in cases related to foreign terrorist fighters.

37. Under the umbrella of the above-mentioned initiative, five national training activities were held in Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, on the use of intelligence in rule-of-law-based, criminal justice sector-led investigations and prosecutions. In addition, Yemen benefited from a workshop on special techniques for investigating Internet-based terrorist offences, and Morocco hosted a workshop on judicial responses to propaganda, apology and incitement to terrorism.

38. In South-Eastern Europe, three specialized capacity-building activities on normative and administrative challenges related to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters were held in Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, in October 2017, UNODC released a manual on investigation of foreign terrorist fighter cases adapted for judicial training institutes in South-Eastern Europe.

39. Recognizing the transboundary nature of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the Office held five regional workshops on the subject in 2017 (for Central Asia, in Tashkent on 8 and 9 February, and in Astana on 28 February; for South-Eastern Europe, in Vienna from 14 to 16 February; for North Africa, in Tangier, Morocco, from 14 to 16 March; and for South and South-East Asia, in Manila from 7 to 9 November).

40. Furthermore, in collaboration with UNODC, CTED and PAM held a high-level conference for parliamentarians in Rome on 30 and 31 March 2017 on the challenges posed by a preventative criminal justice response to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters.

41. UNODC and INTERPOL continued to implement a project for selected Asian countries on identifying and interdicting terrorist fighters through improved access to the I-24/7 Global Police Communications System of INTERPOL.

(d) Countering the use of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes

42. The use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes continues to pose a threat to international security, as terrorists use the latest technology, in particular relative to encryption methods, to incite violence, exchange operational information and perpetrate attacks against public and private targets.

43. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to requesting Governments in this thematic area through national and regional workshops on enacting effective criminal justice measures to efficiently counter the threat posed by the use of such technologies for terrorist purposes.

44. To that end, the Office, in cooperation with the Italian Carabinieri, organized study visits to the forensics laboratory in Velletri, Italy, for officials of Morocco from 20 to 24 March 2017 and for officials of Algeria from 27 to 31 March 2017.

45. As prevention and protection are key aspects of the international counter-terrorism effort, the Office held two training events aimed at strengthening skills in using efficient special investigation techniques to counter terrorist activities on the Internet, one in Amman from 16 to 20 May 2017 and one in Cairo from 18 to 20 October 2017.

46. Recognizing the importance of the digital space as a new source of evidence in the prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases, UNODC held a regional capacity-building activity for the Middle East and North Africa on the use of digital evidence in terrorism cases in Rome from 11 to 13 July 2017 and a national work session for Nigeria on 24 October 2017.

(e) Countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism

47. UNODC continued to promote the seven international legal instruments dealing with the criminalization of certain acts by non-State actors involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials, as well as the implementation of relevant obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

48. To that end, the Office organized a workshop for Iraq on the dual use of chemical materials for terrorism purposes, held in Beirut from 12 to 15 August 2017, which was complemented by related study visits to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), INTERPOL, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and WCO from 9 to 20 October 2017.

49. UNODC also cooperated with Canada in co-chairing an event in Vienna commemorating the tenth anniversary of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and in co-organizing a workshop in Bratislava on legal frameworks in nuclear security, under the aegis of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). Furthermore, the Office participated in other GICNT events, including, the tenth GICNT Plenary Meeting in Tokyo in June 2017 (via video messaging). In addition, UNODC was represented at an OPCW meeting on chemical security held in The Hague in September 2017.

50. UNODC made an instrumental contribution to a legislative drafting workshop on nuclear smuggling organized by the United States of America for Ukraine, held in Kyiv from 24 to 25 July 2017.

(f) Addressing transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences

51. Civil aviation and maritime transport are vital forms of infrastructure often targeted in terrorist attacks. UNODC continued to promote the 11 international legal instruments addressing violent acts against civil aviation and maritime navigation, as well as to provide technical assistance in support of effective criminal justice responses to such terrorist acts.

52. To that end, the Office held a national training event for Egypt in Alexandria, Egypt, from 11 to 13 May 2017 that addressed, inter alia, terrorist attacks targeting tourism and tourism sites. Furthermore, UNODC, together with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), provided assistance to Nigeria in reviewing its civil aviation legislation in Lagos, Nigeria, from 17 to 19 October 2017.

53. Throughout 2017, the Office was in close contact with ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to assess evolving risks and consider the possibility of providing further technical and capacity-building assistance. As a result, UNODC and IMO developed concepts for new regional projects to assist States in countering terrorist risks in the maritime industry.

(g) Providing assistance and support to victims of acts of terrorism

54. In 2017, the General Assembly proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. In that connection, UNODC contributes to international efforts to improve the situation and role of victims by strengthening national criminal justice responses to terrorism.

55. To that end, in 2017, the Office finalized a project for countries of South and South-East Asia on support for and protection of witnesses and victims, and held national workshops on that topic in Bangladesh on 22 and 23 March, in the Philippines on 27 and 28 March and in Indonesia on 30 March. UNODC also participated in a regional workshop on victims of terrorism in Manila in February, organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

56. As part of the Office's assistance relating to victim-centred frameworks, a workshop was held in Amman from 6 to 8 February 2017 focusing on protecting witnesses in terrorism-related cases.

57. Furthermore, UNODC held a national workshop and work session in Abuja from 9 to 11 May 2017 to support Nigeria and countries of the Lake Chad region in addressing acts of sexual violence perpetrated by terrorist groups through the effective prosecution of such crimes and the provision of support to victims.

(h) Addressing gender dimensions in the criminal justice response to terrorism

58. There has been growing international awareness of the different ways in which women and men are involved in and impacted by terrorist acts. For example, acts of sexual and gender-based violence targeting women in particular have been found to be part of the modus operandi of certain terrorist groups. Reports also indicate the increasing involvement of women in different forms of terrorist activity. In line with its role in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, UNODC has developed targeted capacity-building activities relating to gender dimensions in the criminal justice response to terrorism.

59. The Office initiated a project on gender dimensions in sub-Saharan Africa in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Under the project, UNODC and OHCHR delivered a workshop in Abuja from 9 to 11 May 2017, and have been developing a training module tailored to the Nigerian context. Specialized sessions on gender dimensions were integrated into training workshops for police, prosecutors and the Nigerian Bar Association. The same topic was the subject of a subregional workshop for Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria held in Yaoundé from 19 to 21 July 2017.

60. Furthermore, some of the projects for South and South-East Asia on criminal justice responses to violent extremism conducive to terrorism include components on the role of civil society, communities and families, including women. In Central Asia, UNODC engaged with government officials and civil society to identify the need for gender-focused training.

61. In addition, a UNODC publication on gender dimensions in criminal justice responses to terrorism is to be published in 2018.

(i) Reinforcing human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism

62. As in previous years, human rights were a central component of all of the Office's technical assistance activities related to countering terrorism. That reflects the principle that human rights norms and good practices are essential to all effective, sustainable counter-terrorism activities that seek to uphold the rule of law.

63. In 2017, the Office launched a new online training course on the topic "Human rights in the context of criminal justice responses to terrorism", which was delivered to judges from the Maghreb region. Capacity-building workshops, including train-the-trainer courses on human rights-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism were delivered for Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. A training course for Lebanon, held in Beirut from 13 to 22 September 2017, included the launch of a manual produced by UNODC on special investigation techniques that respect human rights and the rule of law.

64. Furthermore, UNODC continued its collaboration with Nigerian authorities on strengthening human rights in the criminal justice response to terrorism. That included a train-the-trainer course (Abuja, 16–20 January 2017), followed by three specialized sessions in which the trainees passed on their knowledge to prosecutors and defence lawyers from the north-eastern states of Nigeria (Abuja, 21–23 March 2017, 26–28 September 2017 and 14–16 November 2017). The UNODC-trained trainers also delivered sessions on human rights to police legal advisers.

65. As part of its cooperation with relevant regional organizations, UNODC held a workshop jointly with OHCHR on human rights and counter-terrorism for the secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel (Sahel G-5) and Sahel G-5 national liaison officers in Nouakchott in December 2017.

66. Furthermore, the Office produced a new publication entitled *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: the Role of the Justice System* (launched in January 2018) and supported the Niger in strengthening its capacity to deal with children allegedly recruited by terrorist groups. In March 2017, UNODC also launched a new training manual on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism for Kenya, developed together with Kenyan experts.

(j) Strengthening the criminal justice response to violent extremism conducive to terrorism

67. The prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism has emerged as an important aspect of the fight against terrorism. To that end, UNODC continued developing its expertise and partnerships to mainstream criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism into its capacity-building assistance efforts.

68. During the reporting period, UNODC, in collaboration with CTED and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, developed a new project on managing violent extremist offenders and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons (implementation of which is to begin in 2018), and launched the publication entitled *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons* on 16 January 2017, the first-ever United Nations publication on the subject.

69. Furthermore, the Office supported the development of the national strategy to prevent violent extremism of Mali, and completed a project on strengthening rule of law-compliant criminal justice responses to violent extremism leading to terrorism for the Middle East and North Africa. To that end, a specialized training session for Egypt and Lebanon on countering violent extremism in prisons was held in Beirut from 14 to 16 March 2017.

70. In South and South-East Asia, UNODC continued to implement a project on strengthening criminal justice responses to violent extremism conducive to terrorism. To that end, eight national events were held in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives and the Philippines, as well as a regional workshop in Tokyo in December 2017.

71. In Central Asia, the Office implemented the first phase of a project on strengthening national capacity to prevent violent extremism, and is soon to launch a network to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism for the region.

72. UNODC also made considerable progress on the Education for Justice initiative, which included the development of counter-terrorism educational resources for the use in primary, secondary and tertiary education. After two expert group meetings, held in Nairobi and Singapore in November, training modules were developed for publication in early 2018.

73. On the margins of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna from 22 to 26 May 2017, the Office also organized a special event to highlight the role of the criminal justice system in preventing violent extremism leading to terrorism.

(k) Developing technical assistance tools

74. Technical assistance tools developed in-house, often in collaboration with expert partners, are an essential part of the Office's capacity-building activities.

75. In addition to the tools and publications mentioned in the thematic sections above, UNODC also completed the revision of module 2 of its Counter-Terrorism Legal Training Curriculum, on the universal legal framework against terrorism, and is soon to release a publication on countering the financing of terrorism: good practices in regional risk assessments.

76. The Office also continued to provide its online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform as an important interactive tool to facilitate training and networking related to capacity-building among practitioners. At the time of drafting of the present report, the Platform had 1,665 users from more than 125 countries. UNODC made considerable progress towards the development and implementation of new and updated online training courses on international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, training 54 North African practitioners. In addition, 14 webinars on various topics related to counter-terrorism were delivered, reaching 119 practitioners worldwide.

77. UNODC continued to maintain its Electronic Legal Resources on International Terrorism database (www.unodc.org/tldb) and the Observatory of Jurisprudence for the Americas on counter-terrorism, its financing and serious related crimes (www.observatoriojurisprudencia.unodc.org.co).

(l) Providing technical assistance in close cooperation with national training institutions

78. UNODC supported professional training on counter-terrorism issues through continued and new partnerships with national criminal justice sector training institutions, thus widening the reach of its capacity-building efforts.

79. Throughout the year, the Office participated in and made substantive contributions to terrorism-related events held by the University of Zagreb together with the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, the

International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, the French National School for the Judiciary and the University of Malaga.

80. Train-the-trainer workshops remained an efficient way to ensure that capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC was highly sustainable. To that end, the Office held nine such events for Nigeria, three for Algeria, two for Libya and one for Tunisia, with varying topical emphases, including human rights and the investigation of Internet-based terrorist offences. In delivering the workshops, UNODC collaborated with the National Judicial Institute of Nigeria, the Higher Institute of the Judiciary of Tunisia, the Higher Judicial Institute of Libya, and the Judicial College of Algeria, respectively.

81. In 2017, the Office also assisted judicial and law enforcement training institutes in Mali and the Niger by reviewing their curricula and facilitating the incorporation of terrorism prevention into their syllabuses.

3. Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to counter-terrorism

82. In today's globalized world, national authorities need to engage in more comprehensive and timely international cooperation to match terrorists' global reach and mobility.

83. In 2017, UNODC delivered a vast array of activities aimed at building the capacity of Member States in cross-border investigations and operations and expanded its portfolio of specialized projects designed to respond to terrorist activities that have a particularly transnational modus operandi, such as those of foreign terrorist fighters. To promote international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal cases related to terrorism, the Office carried out 6 regional and 16 national workshops, and four online interactive discussions.

84. In line with Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), in which the Council called upon all States to designate central authorities in matters related to terrorism offences, UNODC and CTED resumed the implementation of a joint project on building effective central authorities for terrorism-related cases and co-organized a regional meeting for States of South and South-East Asia, held in Maldives from 7 to 9 November 2017. UNODC also provided training on handling mutual legal assistance and extradition requests to central authority units at the national level in Nigeria.

85. Furthermore, UNODC, CTED and the International Association of Prosecutors launched a project on strengthening the capacity of central authorities and counter-terrorism prosecutors in obtaining digital evidence from private communication service providers.

86. The Office also continued to support the Regional Judicial Platform of the Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal), and held the annual meeting of the Platform in April 2017.

87. UNODC helped establish the new Multi-Agency Task Force for the Middle East and North African Region with the aim of strengthening international cooperation in terrorism cases, especially those relating to foreign terrorist fighters. To that end, the Office held the first Task Force coordination meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, from 7 to 9 November 2017.

B. Partnerships

88. UNODC continued to foster partnerships with other United Nations entities as well as subregional, regional and international organizations in order to coordinate and, in some cases, jointly implement technical assistance activities.

1. Participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

89. The increasing demand for capacity-building assistance in countering terrorism requires stronger coordination and coherence among United Nations entities in the identification of technical assistance needs and in the development, planning, delivery, monitoring and impact assessment of programmes.

90. UNODC enjoys excellent working relations with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Office fully supports joint planning, programming and technical assistance delivery. It has already jointly developed several successful projects with other entities, including the Office of Counter-Terrorism, CTED, OHCHR and INTERPOL, and looks forward to closer coordination and greater coherence, in line with the existing mandates of each partner entity.

91. UNODC is an active member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, chairs two Task Force working groups, on countering the financing of terrorism (with the Office of Counter-Terrorism) and on legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism (with CTED), and is a Vice-Chair of the CTED-chaired Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism. The Office is a member of all 12 thematic working groups of the Task Force, and UNODC representatives participated in many of the working group meetings, including those on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies; promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism; protection of critical infrastructure, including vulnerable targets, Internet and tourism security; supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism; preventing and responding to terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction; preventing violent extremism and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; foreign terrorist fighters; gender-sensitive approaches to preventing and countering terrorism; and communications.

92. Throughout the year, UNODC contributed substantively to numerous events and projects of the Task Force, including the report of the Secretary-General on the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858), an inter-agency expert retreat on assisting Member States in their development of national and regional action plans, and several Task Force briefings for Member States, as well as for the new Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism.

93. Furthermore, UNODC continued to contribute to the Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre-led initiative on integrated assistance for countering terrorism (I-ACT), and participated in the development of the I-ACT framework for the Sahel G-5 countries, pursuant to a request by the Security Council. In that connection, UNODC representatives participated in events held jointly by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in Dakar and Nouakchott in May, and in a coordination meeting on the implementation of the framework held in October 2017.

2. Cooperation with Security Council bodies dealing with counter-terrorism

94. UNODC maintained its fluid cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED) on key counter-terrorism projects. In that context, in 2017, representatives of UNODC and CTC made joint country visits to Argentina, Paraguay, Senegal and Uruguay in March, to Egypt in July and to Germany, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in November to monitor the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent related resolutions. Furthermore, representatives of UNODC attended seven CTC meetings, including a briefing on denying safe haven to terrorists (5 April), and a special meeting and technical consultations on international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in countering terrorism (20 and 21 June).

95. UNODC and CTED continued to jointly implement several projects, including on effective counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions while respecting

human rights and the rule of law in the Maghreb, the latest phase of a partnership between Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and CTED on strengthening criminal justice responses for multidimensional security (terrorism), as well as an initiative on strengthening the capacity of central authorities and counter-terrorism prosecutors in obtaining digital evidence in matters relating to counter-terrorism.

96. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), concerning ISIL, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Office and the Security Council Committee, including its Group of Experts, strengthened their collaboration by contributing to each other's events and holding regular consultations. Moreover, UNODC maintained its partnership with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) through close contact and by contributing to a training course organized by the Committee for the Asia and Pacific region that was held in August 2017.

3. Partnerships with international, regional and subregional organizations

97. UNODC, including through its Terrorism Prevention Branch, has developed and maintained partnerships with 59 international, regional and subregional organizations, including United Nations system entities, in addition to the collaborations mentioned above. Among them are the following: African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Council of Europe and its Committee of Experts on Terrorism, Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurojust, European Counter Terrorism Centre, European Court of Human Rights, European Parliament, European Union and its European External Action Service, Europol, Financial Action Task Force, Global Centre on Cooperative Security, Global Counterterrorism Forum, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, ICAO, IMO, Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, International Monetary Fund, International Organization for Migration, INTERPOL, IPU, League of Arab States, NATO, OHCHR, OPCW, OSCE, PAM, Radicalization Awareness Network, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, UNESCO, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, WCO, World Bank and World Trade Organization.

98. UNODC and the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations signed a framework agreement on a strategic partnership regarding counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. Furthermore, the Office continued its active participation in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

99. UNODC also expanded its cooperation with INTERPOL. Joint activities included the development and delivery of online learning modules to teach justice officials about INTERPOL tools and services. A joint project on enhancing the capacity of national authorities in selected Asian countries to identify and interdict foreign terrorist fighters was also implemented in 2017 through visits to Mongolia in May, Bangladesh in October, Kazakhstan in November and India in December. UNODC representatives also participated in meetings such as the second INTERPOL Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting for the Middle East and North Africa region, held in the United Arab Emirates in February, as well as the INTERPOL symposium on fingerprint and face recognition, held in Lyon, France, in December 2017.

100. UNODC continued to exchange views with the European Union on counter-terrorism policy and cooperation on technical assistance. The European Union-funded joint projects, which included a project to assist Nigeria in strengthening its criminal justice responses to terrorism, remained at the centre of that important partnership. In addition, UNODC representatives shared their expertise at numerous European Union events, and UNODC invited representatives of the

European Union to an expert group meeting on the identification of good practices in assessing the risks of terrorism financing, held in Vienna on 4 and 5 April 2017.

101. The Office also continued its successful cooperation with OHCHR on strengthening criminal justice responses in line with human rights standards. As part of that work, UNODC and OHCHR held a subregional workshop on gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism in Yaoundé from 19 to 21 July 2017.

102. UNODC collaborated with IAEA on the promotion of the international legal instruments related to nuclear security, including by participating in an IAEA nuclear security information exchange meeting, held in Vienna in April 2017, and an IAEA regional workshop to promote the universalization of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, held in Panama City in November 2017.

4. Cooperation with donors and recipients

103. UNODC worked to foster closer collaboration with national authorities of Member States in receipt of its assistance in order to ensure that technical assistance was being tailored to national and regional counter-terrorism priorities. To that end, UNODC engaged in close consultations with permanent missions of Member States to the United Nations and national counterparts.

104. The Office worked closely with national authorities, including Indonesia, Iraq, Maldives, Mali and the Philippines, in strengthening national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. Furthermore, UNODC contributed to technical assistance plans for Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Malaysia and Mauritania, and continued to actively participate in the development and implementation of national and regional strategies within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

105. Throughout 2017, UNODC and CTED worked with Nigerian authorities to develop a comprehensive strategy to prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate persons associated with Boko Haram, with a specific focus on criminal justice aspects. In December, an action plan on criminal justice responses to terrorism with a focus on North-East Nigeria was endorsed by Nigerian authorities.

106. Furthermore, the Office held round-table discussions in Dhaka in July with the Government of Bangladesh, with the participation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Regional Coordinator and UNDP, to coordinate counter-terrorism technical assistance delivery on the ground. The meeting resulted in the development of a coherent framework for United Nations-wide joint programme and assistance delivery.

107. The Office also enjoyed invaluable funding support from major donors. Since 2003, pledges and contributions have been made by the following Member States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States. Pledges and contributions have also been made by the following entities: CTED, European Union, IMO, Indian Ocean Commission, International Organization of la Francophonie, INTERPOL, OSCE, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the University of Sussex, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

108. Several States also supported UNODC through the participation of their national experts in its technical assistance activities.

C. Monitoring technical assistance activities and assessing their impact

109. Ensuring the effectiveness, relevance, sustainability and impact of its technical assistance activities ranks among the Office's top priorities. A total of 92.5 per cent of national officials trained in 2017 under the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism reported that the technical assistance they received had met their goals and was relevant to their needs and priorities.

110. UNODC continued to implement the recommendations emanating from the 2015 independent midterm in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, including by tailoring technical assistance to the needs and intake capacity of receiving countries, strengthening the safety and security of staff on the ground and integrating human rights elements into the delivery of technical assistance. The Office also continued to systematically mainstream gender aspects into all counter-terrorism projects. An excellent example was the development of a new project on gender mainstreaming in counter-terrorism work for South and South-East Asia (to be delivered in 2018).

111. Furthermore, the Internal Audit Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted an audit of the management of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism during the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016. The audit team undertook missions to Cairo and Vienna from September to December. The auditors' report, including recommendations, was expected to be available in March 2018.

112. UNODC also finalized the implementation of the key recommendations of the independent project evaluation of the joint Nigeria/European Union/UNODC/CTED partnership project on assisting Nigeria to strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism. The evaluation results indicated that the project was highly relevant, responded to the needs identified by the Government of Nigeria, helped to sensitize key agencies to the need to coordinate and cooperate in terrorism-related cases and created awareness of the necessity for organizational change among criminal justice agencies. The Office initiated a follow-up independent evaluation for the second phase of the partnership project for Nigeria, which is to be finalized in 2018. It also issued several recommendations for further enhancing the effectiveness, quality and efficiency of its technical assistance to Nigeria related to counter-terrorism.

III. Priorities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of preventing and combating terrorism

113. UNODC will continue to support Member States' efforts to strengthen their legal regimes and criminal justice systems against terrorism, in full compliance with the rule of law and human rights. The Office offers expertise on immediate terrorist threats such as returning and relocating terrorist fighters, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, children recruited and exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups, the increasing use of modern information and communication technologies by terrorists, terrorists acting alone or in small cells, the proliferation of improvised explosive devices, terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure, and the criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

114. In particular, the Office will continue to promote the ratification and implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism, assist Member States in reviewing their national legislation, build the capacity of criminal justice officials, and promote regional and international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

115. Promoting the ratification of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism that have a low level of ratification or those that have not yet entered into

force, including the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation, the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and the Protocol to amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, will remain a priority.

116. UNODC will continue to implement long-term technical assistance programmes and projects tailored to the context of specific countries and regions, in close consultation with other United Nations entities, in particular the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED.

117. To respond to Member States' requests, UNODC will strengthen its capacity-building programmes to support Governments' efforts to efficiently address immediate terrorist threats, such as returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, the use of improvised explosive devices by terrorist groups, terrorists acting alone or in small cells, the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

118. Human rights will continue to be an integral element of all counter-terrorism project proposals. UNODC will also focus on mainstreaming gender dimensions into criminal justice responses to terrorism.

119. In line with its mandate, the Office also intends to further expand its provision of technical assistance for strengthening international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in terrorism-related cases. Subject to the availability of funds, the Office plans to expand its existing database of central authorities by adding a directory of designated focal points for terrorism cases.

120. UNODC also intends to implement technical assistance programmes on the treatment of children recruited and exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups, and on the management of violent extremist prisoners and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons.

121. The Office will also reinforce efforts to develop technical assistance tools. The online training platform and legislative database will be expanded to meet new technical and thematic requirements.

122. UNODC will ensure the visibility of its work by raising awareness of the services it makes available to Member States and promoting better utilization of its available tools, resources and web-based platforms.

123. Implementation of recommendations emanating from the 2017 internal audit and the 2015 independent in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism will be prioritized, in particular those on ensuring the impact and sustainability of its technical assistance, and further streamlining communication and coordination with relevant field offices.

124. The Office will continue to ensure cost efficiency and transparency with respect to donor Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies, including by improving its result-based management approach and the quality of its concept notes and reports.

125. Finally, UNODC intends to further strengthen cooperation among UNODC offices, with other entities of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations in order to avoid duplication, ensure synergies and contribute to the "One United Nations" approach.

IV. Recommendations

126. The prevention and prosecution of acts of terrorism and other related crimes is of increasingly high priority for Member States. The quickly evolving and transnational nature of the threat of global terrorism requires a coordinated and

regional response. The Office's deployment of experts with highly specific and up-to-date knowledge of criminal justice approaches to preventing and countering the various elements that comprise acts of terrorism is one of the main ways in which the United Nations supports Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in line with the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Continued voluntary support is essential for such efforts.

127. The accession to and ratification and implementation of the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism is a vital first step that Member States can take towards addressing the threat of terrorism, and all Member States are encouraged to do so. Strengthening legislative frameworks and criminal justice and law enforcement capacity and enhancing international judicial cooperation through relevant safeguards and oversight mechanisms, building upon technical assistance provided by UNODC, are also important, in particular in the areas of interdiction, investigation and ensuring there is no safe haven for perpetrators of terrorist acts.